

## Kennedy Asks Patience On Mess in Viet Nam

President Kennedy says the United States "must be patient" in trying to straighten out the mess in South Viet Nam.

The President came out strongly last night against reducing American aid to South Viet Nam or withdrawing from the struggle to protect the area against Communist takeover.

Mr. Kennedy, for the second Monday night in a row, talked about the troubled situation in South Viet Nam on a television news program—this time inaugurating the expanded 30-minute news report by NBC's David Brinkley and Chet Huntley.

But Mr. Huntley asked the President if South Viet Nam is an example of our Government getting locked into a policy and finding it difficult to change that policy, he answered: "Yes, that is true."

### Concern Over Deterioration

While for the last two years the struggle against the Communists in Viet Nam seemed to be going better, the President said the Diem government's difficulties with the Buddhists this summer have raised concern about a deterioration.

In a similar interview last week on a CBS news program the President made it clear he felt repressive measures against the Buddhists by the government of Viet Nam President Ngo Dinh Diem were costing the government popular support that dampened hopes of winning the war with the Communists.

"We are faced with the problem of wanting to protect the area against the Communists," he said last night. "On the other hand, we have to deal with the government there. That produces a kind of am-

bivalence in our efforts which exposes us to some criticism.

"We are using our influence to persuade the government there to take those steps which will win back support. That takes some time, and we must be patient—we must persist."

### Calls Aid Important

The President warned that while a reduction in American aid might have some effect on the government there, it might also bring about a collapse, resulting in loss of the country to the Communists. He added that he believes the so-called "domino theory"—that if South Viet Nam fell, other Southeast Asian countries would fall to the Communists like a row of dominoes.

Asked if he could provide any enlightenment about conflicting reports on CIA activities on South Viet Nam, Mr. Kennedy replied with a flat "no."

He emphasized that CIA Director John McCone participates in National Security Council sessions and that the CIA co-ordinates its efforts with the State and Defense Departments.

While the United States does have "some influence" in South Viet Nam, the President said: "We can't expect these countries to do everything the way we want them to do them."

He added: "What I am concerned about is that Americans will get impatient and say because they don't like events in Southeast Asia or they don't like the government in Saigon that we should withdraw.

"That only makes it easy for the Communists. I think we should stay. We should use our influence to an effective way as we can, but we should not withdraw."